

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 9-12 and 14-17 are pending. Claims 4-8 and 13 are now cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce the cancelled claims in a continuing application. Applicants request rejoinder of claims 9-11, 14 and 17. Claim 1 is amended to recite that the integer "a" is from 1 to 3. See examples 1-2 and 1-3 and original disclosure filed for support. No new matter is introduced.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 12, 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 12, 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mager et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,395,826; hereinafter "Mager") for the reasons noted (at paragraph no. 5) at pages 2-3 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that "a" is an integer from 1 to 3. As such, Formula 2 (Formula 2 = $(R_2)_{4-a}Ge(X_4)_a$) of Applicants' claim 1 no longer overlaps with Formula (VIa) (Formula VIa = $Q(OR)_z$ and Q = Ge only when z = 4 according to Mager) of Mager. As such, Mager does not anticipate amended claim 1 (or any of its dependent claims).

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and request a written indication of the same.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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